

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-10 and 12-20 stand in this application. Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 10 and 15 have been amended. New claim 20 has been added. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the standing claims are respectfully requested.

Although Applicant disagrees with the broad grounds of rejection set forth in the Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 1, 10 and 15 in order to facilitate prosecution on the merits. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15 in order to correct minor editorial errors.

Allowed Claims

We would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 1-9 and 15-19.

Allowable Claims

We would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 11 and 13 if amended to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 has been canceled and its subject matter has been incorporated into amended independent claim 10. Moreover, new claim 20 has been added that recites the limitations previously recited in independent claim 10 and dependent claims 12 and 13.

35 U.S.C. § 103

At page 2, paragraph 3 of the Office Action claims 10, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,091,966 to Meadows (“Meadows”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

As recited above, Applicant has cancelled allowable claim 11 and has incorporated its subject matter into amended independent claim 10. Applicant respectfully submits that the above recited amendment places claim 10 in condition for allowance based on the notice of allowable subject matter and the reasons for allowance on page 3 of the Office Action. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that if an independent claim is non-obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, then any claim depending therefrom is non-obvious. *See* MPEP § 2143.03, for example. Accordingly, removal of the obviousness rejection with respect to claim 10 is respectfully requested. Claims 12 and 14 also are non-obvious and patentable over Meadows at least on the basis of their dependency from claim 10. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests the removal of the obviousness rejection with respect to these dependent claims.

Applicant has added new claim 20 that recites the limitations previously recited in independent claim 10, dependent claim 12 and allowable dependent claim 13. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is in condition for allowance based on the notice of allowable subject matter and the reasons for allowance on page 3 of the Office Action.

It is believed that claims 1-10 and 12-20 are in allowable form. Accordingly, a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Appl. No. 10/826,515
Response Dated October 22, 2007
Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2007

Docket No.: 18168
Examiner: Trinh, Tan H.
TC/A.U. 2618

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-9338 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to the credit card in the previously filed credit card authorization form.

Respectfully submitted,

KACVINSKY LLC

/John F. Kacvinsky/

John F. Kacvinsky, Reg. No. 40,040
Under 37 CFR 1.34(a)

Dated: October 22, 2007

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